

January 15, 2002

To: Trans-Lake Executive Committee Members
From: Les Rubstello, WSDOT Project Manager
Barbara Gilliland, Sound Transit Project Manager
Jeff Peacock, Parametrix
Pat Serie, EnviroIssues
Subject: Input to Preparations for January 30 Executive Committee Meeting

Greetings to all of you. The project team has been busy this month and last gathering input from the Technical and Advisory Committees, from the jurisdictions, and from the broader communities within the corridor, on selection of alternatives for the EIS.

January 30 Executive Committee Meeting

Please remember, we are asking you on January 30 to weigh in on several items. Specifically:

- Number and type of lanes
- Location of high-capacity transit
- Inclusion of lids as community enhancements

We will not be asking for a recommendation on a preferred alternative, but still on a range of alternatives for detailed study in the EIS.

Technical and Advisory Committee Input Attached

As we approach that January 30 Executive Committee decision point, there are a number of items attached for your review:

- Agenda for January 30. The meeting runs from 1 to 5 pm, at the Museum of History and Industry. It will focus on reaching agreement on recommended alternatives to move forward into the EIS.
- Summary from the Advisory Committee for your review.
- Other input received from committee members ("homework" requested at November all-committee workshop).

Another copy is attached for your review of the summary of the Technical Committee meeting in December, with members' input on EIS alternatives, which we distributed earlier. We will be summarizing input received, and providing it to you, of the community open houses that will take place next week (Tuesday, January 15, at the North Bellevue Senior Center in Bellevue; Thursday, January 17, at the Museum of History and Industry in Seattle).

Other Ongoing Activities

There are a few other issues that we are hearing about that we want to share with you:

- Coordination with Link Light Rail -- Sound Transit is proceeding with its northern alignment Link Light Rail supplemental EIS. Our team is coordinating with that effort to see if any of

their alternative locations (for example, in the Montlake area) constrain or provide opportunities for Trans-Lake options.

- Community Design Effort -- When the decision is made on the major questions about what to study further in the EIS alternatives (number of lanes, HCT corridor, inclusion of lids), the team will immediately turn to working closely with your jurisdictions and communities to further define the details. Some of the issues to be worked further between February and June 2002 include selecting specific interchanges, including HOV direct access, lid configurations, lane management options, roadway alignment, and HCT options. By June, the team will need to “freeze” the assumptions and begin impact analysis.
- Continued Executive Committee Role -- WSDOT and Sound Transit anticipate that they will ask the Executive Committee to continue its role, though on a less-intensive schedule, throughout the EIS preparation and selection of a preliminary preferred alternative (targeted for early 2003). Thus, we will propose a meeting schedule for the remainder of 2002 at the January 30 meeting, and describe how the agencies plan to achieve continuing input from the Technical and Advisory Committee members as well.
- Managed Lane Study -- There has been considerable “buzz” about the concept of managed lanes, and WSDOT has undertaken a study through the I-405 project to identify options and offer preliminary ideas about how managed lanes might function on I-405 or, potentially, SR 520. This information will be available to share with you in the March timeframe.
- Preservation of SR 520 HCT -- Recognizing that current information leans toward retaining primary focus for HCT in the I-90 corridor, the team has initiated a look at what it might take to accommodate future right of way for HCT in the SR 520 corridor as a longer-term option. We are working hard to have those results available by your January meeting
- Timing and Funding Implementation -- Finally, we are frequently being asked about funding and implementation timing of transit versus highway facilities within the corridor. It is unclear whether funding for the project HCT will come through separate votes for highway and transit improvements (such as a Sound Transit Phase II vote) or from a regional funding entity and package that would cover both transit and roadway portions of the selected alternative. This will be revisited over the next year as we all figure out how such major projects are going to be implemented.

Thank you all for your continued involvement. We are enthusiastic about meeting with you at the end of the month and moving farther in the EIS process. Please don't hesitate to call me (206-269-5041) or any of the team if you have questions or concerns about the status of the process, the meeting agenda, or anything else!